

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18 and 26 are amended. Claims 17-32, as amended, remain in the application. No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims.

The Rejections:

In the Office Action dated August 14, 2006, the Examiner rejected Claims 17-32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding Claims 17-25, the Examiner stated that the inconsistency between the language in the preamble "a swiveling device" and certain portions of the body of the claim such as "processing station, a cable processing apparatus, a cutting and stripping station, a leading cable-end, a trailing cable-end, a cable-length, cable-ends" renders the scope of the claim vague and indefinite because it is unclear if the intent is to claim either the subcombination alone or the combination of the "apparatus" and "processing station, a cable processing apparatus, a cutting and stripping station, a leading cable-end, a trailing cable-end, a cable-length, cable-ends". The Examiner asked Applicants to please clarify what subject matter the claim is intended to be drawn to, i.e., the subcombination alone or the combination, where the language of the claim is to be amended to be consistent with this intent. The reader understands that the applicants are claiming the subcombination.

The Examiner stated that Claims 19-25 recite "The cable-processing apparatus", while Claims 17-18 recite "A swiveling device" and, therefore, Claims 19-25 are ambiguous and competitors would be unable to discern the claimed invention.

Regarding Claims 26-32, the Examiner stated that the inconsistency between the language in the preamble "a machine" and certain portions of the body of the claim such as "a cable, a cable-length, leading and trailing ends of the cable-length, a crimped contact" renders the scope of the claim vague and indefinite because it is unclear if the intent is to claim either the subcombination alone or the combination of the "a machine" and "a cable, a cable-length, leading and trailing ends of the cable-length, a crimped contact". The Examiner asked Applicants to please clarify what subject matter the claim is intended to be drawn to, i.e., the subcombination

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alone or the combination, where the language of the claim is to be amended to be consistent with this intent. The reader understands that the applicants are claiming the subcombination.

The Examiner rejected Claims 17-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Conte (US 6,658,726). The Examiner stated that Conte discloses in Fig. 1, 8-11 and 22 of different cable-end processing stations and 22 being a double crimping unit; 5-6 provide cables and belt drives; 7 is the swiveling arm and gripper; Fig. 8 shows a turntable with a belt drive below 46 and 47; 14 is a cable transportation belt.

The Response:

Regarding the rejection of Claims 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicants amended Claim 17 to include a "leading cable-end", a "trailing cable-end", a "cable-length", and "cable-ends" in the preamble and to clarify that the intent is to claim the cable processing apparatus subcombination of a "swiveling arm", a "cutting and stripping station", "at least one cable-end processing station" and a "gripper".

Applicants also amended Claims 17 and 18 to recite the "cable-processing apparatus" to be consistent with Claims 19-25.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 26-32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicants amended Claim 26 to include a "cable", a "cable-length", "leading and trailing ends of the cable-length", a "leading cable-end", a "trailing cable-end", and a "crimped contact" in the preamble and to clarify that the intent is to claim the machine subcombination of a "belt-drive", a "cutting and stripping station", a "pair of crimping presses" and a "swiveling device with a swiveling arm and a gripper".

The Examiner rejected all claims as being anticipated by Conte. Conte shows a pivot head 7 that supplies the leading end of each of two cables 3, 4 to one or more processing stations 8 to 11 for stripping and attaching a crimp contact. After processing, the leading ends are ejected from the pivot head 7 to a cable deposit device 1. A pivot arm 21 with gripping units 19, 20 supplies rear ends of the cables 3, 4 to a stripping unit 42, a unit 43 for bringing the cable ends together and a double crimping unit 22. Thus, the pivot head 7 moves only the leading ends of the cables and the pivot arm 21 moves only the rear ends of the cables.

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In contrast, Applicants' independent Claims 17 and 26 define a swiveling arm 2.1 and a gripper 2.2 that are the sole means to move in sequence the leading and trailing ends of the cable-length.

The Examiner stated that Conte discloses that pivot head 7 is the "swiveling arm and gripper". In support of this statement, the Examiner responded to Applicants' previously filed arguments as follows;

"The applicants acknowledgement that the claims are drawn to a subcombination, not a combination, is noted. Therefore, any arguments concerning the cable are beyond the scope of the invention. It is the examiner's position that Conte's swiveling arm being a sole means for holding and moving respectively the cable-ends of the cable-length, since there is nothing special about a cable which consist mainly of a core conductor surrounded by one or more insulation with a metal sheath therebetween. Conte clearly shows all the structure of a swiveling device and a machine, as well as a cable."

The Conte pivot head 7 is not the "sole means for holding and moving respectively the cable ends". In Conte, the leading ends and the rear ends of the cables 3, 4 are held, moved and processed by separate pivoting and processing devices. As stated above, the Conte pivot head 7 supplies the leading end of each of two cables 3, 4 to one or more processing stations 8 to 11 for stripping and attaching a crimp contact. After processing, the leading ends are ejected from the pivot head 7 to a cable deposit device 1. The pivot head 7 moves only the leading ends of the cables and not the rear ends.

The Conte pivot arm 21 with gripping units 19, 20 supplies rear ends of the cables 3, 4 to a stripping unit 42, a unit 43 for bringing the cable ends together and a double crimping unit 22. The pivot arm 21 moves only the rear ends of the cables and not the leading ends.

Thus, Conte does not show or suggest:

said gripper and said swiveling arm being a sole means for holding and moving respectively the leading and trailing cable-ends of the cable-length (Claim 17);

and

said swiveling arm being a sole means for moving the leading and trailing cable-ends
from said cutting and stripping station to said crimping presses and away from
said crimping presses (Claim 26).

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above arguments, Applicants believe
that the claims of record now define patentable subject matter over the art of record.
Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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